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in the next reprinting. The spelling Buenos Aires, for example, is used on one or two maps and Buenos Ayres on the others as well as in the letterpress. The official and common spelling is now Buenos Aires.

**Guatemala and her People of To-day.** By **Nevin O. Winter.** xii and 307 pp., 49 Illustrations from Photographs, Map and Index. L. C. Page and Co., Boston, 1909. \$3.

The fact that before very long we shall be able to travel from New York to the capital of Guatemala by rail will doubtless stimulate our interest in that republic, whose material progress is now important and whose potentialities give promise of a great future. Its people and their customs are described in the present volume and also the land they inhabit, its resources and present state of development. It is evidently a work of careful observation and note-taking, and will doubtless have more readers and provide more entertainment than if it were the product of a trained geographer. The information in the book is reliable and covers something more than Guatemala, as there are also chapters on British Honduras and the Republic of Honduras. The book is handsomely produced in all respects excepting the map, which is very poor.

**The Bawenda of the Spelonken (Transvaal). A Contribution towards the Psychology and Folk-Lore of African Peoples.** By **R. Wessmann.** Translated from the German by Leo Weinthal. 154 pp., Map and Photographic Reproductions. *The African World*, London, 1908.

The Bawenda live in the extreme northern Transvaal and the tribe was the last in that country to surrender its independence. They live among the mountains, tilling the fertile valleys. Much attention is now given to their language, which is said to be the key to some other Bantu languages in the interior of Africa. The author lived long among this people as a missionary and, with characteristic German industry and conscientiousness, he wrote this book. We may be glad that it has been translated into English, for it is one of the most thorough and adequate books that has been written on any of the African tribes. There is no division into chapters, but the topics are well arranged and cover the whole field, including the Bawenda family life, arts and industries, social laws, government, superstitions, religion, demonology, witchcraft, folk-lore and racial relations. Now that the Bawenda have come under white governmental control, their home is a land of peace and all may follow their occupations in quietude. Travellers are not now robbed on the highway and the entrances to villages are no longer barricaded. But the new culture has its disadvantages. The author says the white régime is not so severe as their own, and the people are more lax in respect of their own good, social institutions. Neither are they so industrious as formerly, and they are forgetting their native arts, buying, for a little money in the European stores, the utensils which they formerly fabricated. The book brings an important tribe into clear light and its good photographs help the text.

**Missionary Story Sketches. Folk-Lore from Africa.** By **Alexander P. Camphor.** 346 pp. and Illustrations. Jennings and Graham, Cincinnati, 1909. \$1.50.

Dr. Camphor, a negro, born in Louisiana, who acquired a superior education, was for eleven years president of the College of West Africa at Monrovia, Liberia. He made several journeys into the interior of the republic, collecting at first hand

the material he presents in this book. About 1,000,000 natives are supposed to inhabit the Liberian hinterland, and they are still less known than most of the tribes of the Belgian Congo and German East Africa. Dr. Camphor was long in touch with the native life among the forests and savannas of the interior, and his book makes the largest contribution thus far to our knowledge of these peoples. About 200 pages are given to his travels among them and the information he gathered as to their cultural status and ways of life. In the last third of the book he gives many specimens of their myths and folk-lore and numerous incidents illustrating their social life and the beginnings of religious work among them. The book throughout is infused with the missionary spirit.

**Voyage au Thibet par la Mongolie de Pékin aux Indes. Par Comte de Lesdain.** 2nd Edition. 346 pp., 29 Illustrations from Photographs and Map. Librairie Plon, Paris, 1908.

A description of the journey which Comte de Lesdain and his wife made, in 1904-5, from Peking through Mongolia, and central Tibet to Darjeeling, India, where they reached the railroad to Calcutta. The Count did not find it a constant struggle for life, such as some explorers have described, which was especially fortunate, as his young wife was in his party. The natives gave no trouble, not even when he was only a little over 100 miles from Lhasa. Scientific observations were not particularly prominent in his plans, but he was able, nevertheless, to throw a little light on problems relating to the geography of the Mongolian regions of Ordos and Ala-shan; and he crossed the salt desert of Tsaidam and passed the sources of the Yangtse Kiang in Tibet. The book contains many interesting notes on the nature of the regions he visited and of their inhabitants. His map is on too small a scale to serve a wider purpose than to show his route; and though he made many observations for elevations he gives the results only in round numbers. The work is very readable, abounds with adventure, hunting exploits and novel incidents, and tells the story of what is probably the longest journey of a European traveller through the lesser-known parts of Asia accompanied by his wife.

**Drugging a Nation. The Story of China and the Opium Curse.** By Samuel Merwin. 212 pp., 13 Illustrations and Appendix. Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, 1908. \$1.

The chapters were originally published in *Success Magazine*. The graphic story that Mr. Merwin tells is the result of a personal investigation of the conditions of the opium trade in China and its effects upon the nation. India as well as China is involved in the problem, and the author began his study in England and ended it in China. China is now reaping the whirlwind and is eagerly desirous of ridding herself of the curse that has befallen her people. The book describes the predicament in which China is involved, tells of the golden days of the opium trade, gives the facts with regard to the production of the drug and the trade in it, takes the reader to the opium dens of the empire and depicts the great evils that the opium habit is inflicting upon its people. His description of the present attitude of Great Britain does not indicate that that country is trying very hard to help China out of her dilemma. The opium question is one of the great social problems now before the world, and it is not likely to be settled for years to come. In view of the far-reaching interest it has excited, this book will be useful in the study of it.